

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDGAR
STOPHER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Edgar Stopher who passed away recently at the age of 93. Edgar was a pillar of our Colorado community, and as his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember his life and celebrate his contributions to our nation today.

Edgar was born in Loveland, Colorado in 1909. After his graduation from high school in 1929, Edgar continued his education at the University of Colorado, where he earned a bachelors degree in 1932. During World War II, Edgar answered his country's call to duty and served in the United States Air Force. By war's end Edgar had achieved the rank of Major and was awarded numerous decorations.

Following the War, Edgar moved to Estes Park, where he became the General Manager of the Stanley Hotel. In 1970, he joined the Sheraton Corporation as General Manager of the French Lick Springs Hotel in Indiana. Edgar's position with the Sheraton ultimately led to his relocation to Steamboat Springs, where he became the manager of the Sheraton Hotel there. He retired from that position in 1985.

Edgar was active in volunteer work in every Colorado community in which he lived. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, President of the Board of Education and also gave his time to the Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, Edgar Stopher's dedication and selflessness certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him for his contributions to the State of Colorado and our nation. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Edgar's family and friends during this difficult time.

TEXAS TROOPS IN IRAQ

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces and especially to honor those who have bravely fought and given their lives in Iraq.

Texans have a long history of serving in our military, and the same holds true today in Iraq.

There have been more men and women from Texas who have given their lives in Iraq, than from any other State other than California.

Since the U.S. launched its first airstrike in Iraq, 273 Americans have been killed in hostile action; 158 of those deaths coming after the President declared major combat to be over on March 1.

As of Friday, the Defense Department knew of 34 Texans who had been killed serving their country in Iraq.

Our hearts go out to the family members of these individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country:

Sgt. Edward Anguiano, 24, of Los Fresnos, was killed in action on March 23;

Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Arnold, 30, of Spring, was killed in action on March 22; Spc. Richard Arriaga, 20, of Ganado, was killed in an action on September 18;

Sgt. Michael Barrera, 26, of Von Ormy, was killed in action on October 28;

Staff Sgt. Gary Collins, 32, of Hardin, was killed in action on November 8;

Capt. Eric Das, 30, of Amarillo, was killed in action on April 7;

Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto, 18, of El Paso, was killed in action on March 23;

Master Sgt. George Fernandez, 36, of El Paso, was killed in action on April 2;

Pvt. Robert Frantz, 19, of San Antonio, was killed in action on June 17;

Spc. Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, 26, of Texas, was killed in action on February 25;

Pfc. Analaura Esparza-Gutierrez, 21, of Houston, was killed in action on October 1;

Chief Warrant Officer Second Class Scott Jamar, 32, of Granbury, was killed in action on April 2;

Staff Sgt. Phillip Jordan, 42, of Brazoria, was killed in action on March 23;

Cpl. Brian Kennedy, 25, of Houston, was killed in action on March 21;

Spc. James Kiehl, 22, of Comfort, was killed in action on March 23;

Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Mata, 35, of Amarillo, was killed in action on March 23;

Cpl. Jesus Medellin, 21, of Fort Worth, was killed in action on April 7;

Sgt. Daniel Methvin, 22, of Belton, was killed in action on July 26;

Pfc. Anthony Miller, 19, of San Antonio, was killed in action on April 7;

Sgt. Keelan Moss, 23, of Houston, was killed in action on November 2;

Spc. Joseph Norquist, 26, of San Antonio, was killed in action on October 9;

Staff Sgt. Hector Perez, 40, of Corpus Christi, was killed in action on July 24;

Second Lt. Jonathan Rozier, 25, of Katy, was killed in action on July 19;

Cpl. Tomas Sotelo, Jr., 20, of Houston, was killed in action on June 27;

Spc. James Wright, 27, of Morgan, was killed in action on September 18;

Pfc. Stephen Wyatt, 19, of Kilgore, was killed in action on October 13;

Pfc. Chad Bales, 20, of Coahoma, died on April 3.

Spc. Zeferino Colunga, 20, of Bellville, died on August 6.

1st Sgt. Joe Garza, 43, of Robstown, died on April 28.

Spc. John Johnson, 24, of Houston, died on October 22.

Spc. Christian Schulz, 20, of Colleyville, died on July 11.

Spc. Joseph Suell, 24, of Lufkin, died on June 16.

Sgt. Melissa Valles, 26, of Eagle Pass, died on July 9.

Sgt. Henry Ybarra, 32, of Austin, died on September 11.

These men and women gave their lives defending their country and fighting to liberate a country that has never experienced freedom.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of these individuals.

They served their country bravely, and they will forever be remembered as heroes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WILSON-
TOWNS HEPATITIS C EPIDEMIC
CONTROL AND PREVENTION ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in support of

the Wilson-Towns Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act, which I have introduced today with Representative WILSON of New Mexico.

The virus which causes Hepatitis C was first identified in 1989. Currently, about 4 million people in the United States are believed to have the Hepatitis C virus. However, exact figures are not available because of the stealthy nature of this virus. Often called the "silent epidemic," people infected with the Hepatitis C virus can be virtually symptom-free for decades before realizing that life-threatening damage has occurred. Unfortunately, to date, there is no vaccine to prevent this disease.

When this virus first appeared, it was believed that only intravenous drug users were at risk. However, today we know that this disease is no respecter of persons. People from all walks of life have become victims of this virus. Our young people are particularly at risk because tattoos and body piercings have become the fastest growing mode of transmission for Hepatitis C. Many young people are unwittingly putting themselves at risk for contracting this disease. We must provide them with information which will enable them to make informed decisions about this risk.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan effort, which is modeled after a bill introduced on the Senate side by Senators KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON of Texas and EDWARD KENNEDY of Massachusetts, will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote and support a comprehensive prevention, research and medical management referral program for persons suffering from the Hepatitis C virus. If passed, this bill will represent the first federal effort to provide a strategic approach to combat this disease.

Mr. Speaker, this disease has affected almost 2 percent of the population of this country. We must take concrete action now before many more are needlessly subjected to this virus. Let us not miss this opportunity to avert this potential public health threat. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. ANDREW
BELSER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Andrew Belser of Juniata College on receiving the prestigious Pennsylvania Professor of the Year award and to thank him for the dedication and guidance with which he has provided his students.

Since 1981, the United States Professors of the Year program has rewarded outstanding professors for their invaluable work. It is the only national program to recognize college and university professors for their teaching skills, and thus, this award is a testament to Dr. Belser's commitment to his students and the dedication to teaching upon which he prides himself.

Since 1997, Dr. Belser has inspired and directed Juniata College students to study and perform to the best of their abilities. He teaches the importance of maintaining tremendous discipline, technique and skill while making theater, which is a valuable lesson that will influence and guide these students in every endeavor. An experience in the arts, such as the

one that Dr. Belser provides, contributes greatly to one's personal growth as well as the growth of the community.

Dr. Belser commands a very influential and central role in the construction of the Regional Performing Arts Center, the new theater complex at Juniata College. He has used his expertise not only to teach and enliven his students, but to entertain and educate the surrounding community as well. Dr. Belser's dedication and loyalty to the arts is uncommon in the technologically focused world we live in today, but without such invigorating mentors people would lose the rich culture that influences every action and inspires every thought.

I congratulate Dr. Andrew Belser on this great honor and hope that he continues to spread his wisdom and passion for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber on June 3, 2003. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 232. On June 9, 2003, I was absent from this chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 249, 250, and 251. I was also absent from this Chamber on June 11, 16 and 19, 2003, and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 257 and "yea" on rollcall votes 258, 259, 260, 261, 276, 277, 278, and 294.

On June 24, 2003, I was also absent from this Chamber and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 305.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather and travel delays from my district, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 624: "yes"; rollcall No. 625: "yes"; rollcall No. 626: "yes"; rollcall No. 627: "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAM MAYNES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to my friend Sam Maynes. Sam has dedicated his life to advocating for the empowerment of those less fortunate. He is a tremendous attorney, husband, father,

and friend. As Sam's 70th birthday approaches, I would like to call attention to his many contributions to the Colorado community.

Sam is the senior partner of the Durango law firm of Maynes, Bradford, Shipps and Sheftel. Formed in 1961, Sam's firm is general counsel for the Ute Indian Tribe, and special counsel for the Ute Mountain Tribe. Sam is also one of the foremost experts in water law in the United States. He is general counsel for the Southwestern Water Conservation District in Colorado and was instrumental in working to reach a compromise to make the Animas La Plata water project possible. As an attorney, Sam redefines the phrase 'zealous advocacy.' He is renowned for fighting ferociously for what he believes in. Sam is a man of conviction, and principle, when his morals dictate a position for one of his clients; he is willing to go to the ends of the earth to assure that justice prevails.

Sam's ferocious advocacy has earned him many accolades. He is the recipient of the United States Bureau of Reclamation Citizen Award, the Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award, the Distinguished Achievement Award from the University of Colorado Law School, and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Durango Area Chamber Resort Association. In addition, Sam was named an Honorary Order of the Coif by the University of Colorado School of Law. Sam's many recognitions are a testament to his talent, conviction and integrity. The State of Colorado is truly a better place as the result of Sam's contributions.

The year since Sam's last birthday has been a trying one. Last winter, Sam lost his wonderful wife Jacqueline to multiple sclerosis. Jacqueline was Sam's "angel" and the mother of his four tremendous children. However, even after her death, Sam approaches each day with the knowledge that Jacqueline is there with him as he fights for those who need his help. Despite these tribulations, Sam still displays a playful zest for life each day. Those who visit Sam in his office are often treated to a piece of Sam's famous homemade apricot brandy pound cake while they are amused by Sam's charm, humor and contentment. Sam is truly a magnificent person.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to come before Congress to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to the "under dog." Sam's life is the embodiment of all that makes this country great and I consider it an honor to be his friend. Happy Birthday, Sam.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and encourage all of my colleagues to support this long overdue museum.

I would like to thank Chairman NEY, Mr. LARSON, Chairman LATOURETTE, Ms. HOLMES-NORTON for their diligence in improving this bill and bringing it before us today. It has been a pleasure working with each of you and your staffs.

I would especially like to thank my colleague from Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, for his tireless efforts over the years to ensure that a National Museum of African American History and Culture will be added soon to our Smithsonian Institution. This project would not be as close as we are today without him, and I am proud to be a part of it.

Mr. LEWIS, thank you for your steadfast commitment and leadership on this issue and for allowing me to work with you on it.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for a dedicated, national museum to celebrate African American culture, experience, and history.

The history and culture of African Americans is our history and culture. When we learn that history—the good and the bad, the tragic and the inspiring—we learn about ourselves. By understanding our common past we can begin to envision a brighter future.

Bringing this museum into our national memory at the Smithsonian Institution is the right thing to do. And bringing this museum to a prominent and fitting home in our Nation's Capital is also the right thing to do.

There are many issues surrounding this museum which I believe have been fairly addressed by this bill. We have tried to closely follow the model recently adopted for the Native American Museum currently under construction. Issues regarding museum governance and cost sharing, for example, follow this model.

We ensure this is a true partnership with the private sector and the public at-large by capping Federal contributions at 50 percent.

We ensure the historical integrity of the project by fully integrating this museum into the Smithsonian system.

We ensure the project fits into our Nation's Capital by preserving the consultative role of the National Capital Planning Commission.

The one point that has been made many times throughout this process was that a specific site for this museum should be decided now. The Presidential Commission, authorized by the Congress, recommended five sites within the District of Columbia, four of which are included as options in this bill. Each of these sites has significant benefits as well as drawbacks. I strongly believe that is critical to the timely success of this project that a final, achievable and suitable site is agreed upon as soon as possible.

To that end, all the members who have worked so hard on this bill agreed to drop consideration of a site on the Capitol grounds which would have likely resulted in many years of further delay with no promise that the site could ever be made compatible with Capitol security and overall development plans.

This bill and this museum can serve a valuable purpose in furthering our national dialogue on race. I know that it is the intention of everyone associated with this bill to see this project move forward in a spirit reconciliation and not recrimination. I know we all believe this effort is about seeking the truth of our common history without malice. I am confident we all share the view that this museum must be a place to bring all Americans closer together and that it not be allowed to become a taxpayer subsidized headquarters for angry activists or the domain of politically correct historical revisionists. I hope that all of us here today, and those of us who will be here in the future, will remain committed to this museum in the spirit of truth, reconciliation, and respect with which we take this action here today.